

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled).

4. (New) A method for reducing the amount of wastewater treatment station sludge, comprising the steps:

purifying the wastewater with fixed biological cultures from which excess sludge is extracted intermittently during phases of washing and unclogging;

subjecting, by biological activated sludge treatment, the water from the washing phase that provides fixed biological cultures, the outlet of this stage not recycling effluent to the front end of the water treatment line;

subjecting the wastewater to a stage of reduced sludge production (RSP), selectively, by thermophilic enzymatic action or by partial oxidation by ozone introduced by mechanical stirring, this stage being supplied by quantities of sludge from the step of biological treatment by activated sludge, the substrate source for the bacteria of the biological treatment including organic material derived from lysed bacterial cells induced during the RSP stage

5. (New) A device for implementing the method set forth in claim 4 wherein a reactor substrate source for bacteria is the organic material that is derived from the lysed bacterial cells induced by an apparatus for reduced sludge production (RSP).

6. (New) The device set forth in claim 5 wherein the RSP apparatus is supplied continuously by withdrawing sludge after possible thickening in a separator-thickener that collects activated sludge leaving the biological treatment reactor.